hear oral argument after the record is closed, and may direct oral argument on specified issues if the parties do not request it.

(d) The Hearing Officer's decision under this section will be short and contain only summary findings of fact and conclusions of law. The decision may, at the Hearing Officer's discretion, be rendered orally at the conclusion of any oral argument held. In such case, the Hearing Officer will promptly furnish the parties a typed copy of the decision, which shall constitute the final decision.

(e) Decisions under this section shall be final and conclusive except for fraud, and shall have no value as precedent for future appeals.

§ 1308.36 Accelerated appeal procedure.

(a) The Contractor may elect to have the appeal processed under this section if the amount in dispute is $50,000 or less. The amount shall be determined by totalling the amounts claimed by TVA and Contractor.

(b) Appeals under this section shall be decided, whenever possible, within 180 days after the Hearing Officer receives written notice that the Contractor has elected to proceed under this section. Such election may be made a part of the notice of appeal.

(c) In cases under this section, the parties are encouraged to limit discovery and briefing, consistent with adequate presentation of their positions. The Hearing Officer may shorten applicable time periods in order to meet the 180-day period, and may reserve 30 days to prepare a decision.

(d) The Hearing Officer's decision under this section will be short and may contain only summary findings of fact and conclusions of law. The decision may, at the Hearing Officer's election, be rendered orally at the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing, following such oral argument as may be permitted. In such case, the Hearing Officer will promptly furnish the parties a typed copy of the decision, which shall constitute the final decision.

§ 1308.37 Decisions.

(a) The Hearing Officer's decision shall be in writing. Except as provided by § 1308.35 or 1308.36, the decision shall contain complete findings of fact and conclusions of law. The parties may be directed to submit proposed findings and conclusions. A decision against a Contractor on a claim shall include notice of the Contractor's rights under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 10(a) of the Act.

(b) If the decision denies any part of a Contractor's claim for lack of support and the Hearing Officer is of the opinion that the Contractor's inability to support that part is within § 1308.6 and section 5 of the Act, the decision shall not state that opinion, but contemporaneously with the decision the Hearing Officer shall separately notify TVA's General Counsel of that opinion and the reasons therefor.

(c) Not later than 10 days after receipt of the decision, a party may move to alter or amend the findings or make additional findings and amend the conclusions and decision accordingly. Such a motion may be combined with a motion under § 1308.38. This time period cannot be extended.

§ 1308.38 Reconsideration.

Motions for reconsideration shall be served not later than 10 days after issuance of the Hearing Officer's decision. This time period cannot be extended. Such a motion shall be heard and decided in the manner provided by Rule 59 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for motions for new trial in actions tried without a jury.

§ 1308.39 Briefs and motions.

(a) All motions shall be accompanied by a brief or memorandum setting forth supporting authorities. Briefs in opposition to a motion shall be served within 10 days after receipt of the motion, unless otherwise specified in this part, or by order of the Hearing Officer.

(b) The Hearing Officer shall set the schedule for service of prehearing and posthearing briefs on the merits.

(c) A motion to dismiss an appeal for lack of jurisdiction should be served seasonably, but may be served at any time. The issue of lack of jurisdiction may be raised by the Hearing Officer sua sponte, in which case the Hearing Officer shall set a briefing schedule on